

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 179

By Turner M

A RESOLUTION to name a bridge on State Route 45 in
Metropolitan Nashville Davidson County in honor
of the late Corporal William F. Lyell, United
States Army.

WHEREAS, from time to time, the members of this General Assembly have seen fit to name certain highways and bridges to honor the memory of those courageous members of the armed forces who gave their lives in the defense of our nation; and

WHEREAS, no person is more deserving of this honor than the late Corporal William F. Lyell, Company F, 17th Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division, United States Army, who was killed in combat while serving in Korea; and

WHEREAS, Corporal (Cpl.) Lyell followed the patriotic tradition for which the Volunteer State is renowned by serving with distinction in the United States Army; and

WHEREAS, Cpl. Lyell distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and outstanding courage above and beyond the call of duty in action against the enemy; and

WHEREAS, when his platoon leader was killed, Cpl. Lyell assumed command and led his unit in an assault on strongly fortified enemy positions located on commanding terrain; and

WHEREAS, when his platoon came under vicious, raking fire which halted the forward movement, Cpl. Lyell seized a 57 mm. recoilless rifle and unhesitatingly moved ahead to a suitable firing position from which he delivered deadly accurate fire, completely destroying an enemy bunker and killing its occupants; and

WHEREAS, Cpl. Lyell then returned to his platoon and was resuming the assault when the unit was again subjected to intense hostile fire from two other bunkers; disregarding his personal safety and armed with grenades, he charged forward, hurling grenades into one of the

enemy emplacements, and although painfully wounded in this action he pressed on, destroying the bunker and killing six of the enemy; and

WHEREAS, he then continued his attack against a third enemy position, throwing grenades as he ran forward and annihilating four enemy soldiers; and

WHEREAS, Cpl. Lyell then led his platoon to the north slope of the hill where positions were occupied and from which effective fire was delivered against the enemy in support of friendly-troops moving up; and

WHEREAS, fearlessly exposing himself to enemy fire, he continuously moved about, directing and encouraging his men until he was mortally wounded by enemy mortar fire; and

WHEREAS, Cpl. Lyell's extraordinary heroism, indomitable courage, and aggressive leadership reflect great credit on himself and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service; and

WHEREAS, Corporal Lyell served with great courage and gallantry, giving his life for his country and for the cause in which he believed, and for that ultimate sacrifice, he deserves proper recognition; as a member of the United States Army, he proudly continued an essential tradition of American society: the concept of the citizen-soldier; and

WHEREAS, Cpl. Lyell's dedication to excellence in the military and his love of his family, his fellow soldiers and his country, exemplified in his sacrifice of life itself in defense of all that he held dear, stand as enduring examples of all the characteristics that have ensured the continued freedom of our nation and the preservation of its ideals over the course of our history; and

WHEREAS, Corporal William F. Lyell selflessly gave his life for his country, and it is thus most appropriate that a certain bridge in Davidson county should be named to honor his memory; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that the bridge spanning the Cumberland River on State Route 45 (Old Hickory Boulevard) between Madison and Old Hickory in Metropolitan Nashville Davidson County, is hereby designated the "William F. Lyell Memorial Bridge" in recognition of the life of valor and

death in combat of Corporal William F. Lyell, United States Army, one of Tennessee's most heroic citizens.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Department of Transportation is directed to erect suitable signs or to affix suitable markers designating the bridge described in the first resolving clause as the "William F. Lyell Memorial Bridge." The cost of such signage shall be funded in accordance with Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 54-1-133.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the erection of such signs shall be within the guidelines prescribed by the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall become operative only if the federal highway administrator advises the Commissioner of Transportation in writing that the provisions of this resolution shall not render Tennessee in violation of federal laws and regulations and subject to penalties prescribed therein.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Commissioner of Transportation.